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(54) Title: METHOD OF DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND USEFUL AGENTS FOR CONDITIONS CHARACTERISED BY MODULATION IN THE LEVEL OF ACTIVIN  $\beta$ C

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates generally to a method of diagnosing, predicting or monitoring the development or progress of a condition characterised by modulation in the level of activin expression and, more particularly, a method of diagnosing, predicting or monitoring the development or progress of a condition characterised by modulation in the level of expression of activin  $\beta$ C subunit. The present invention still further provides methods for the therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of conditions characterised by aberrant, unwanted or otherwise inappropriate activin expression, for example, conditions characterised by overexpression or underexpression of activin and most particularly, conditions characterised by overexpression or underexpression of activin  $\beta$ C subunit. A further aspect of the present invention extends to agents for use in the methods of the present invention.

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